

SERVED: NOV 18 , 1998



**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

1998 U.S.-BRAZIL COMBINATION SERVICE PROCEEDING

Docket OST-98-3863

NOTICE SHORTENING ANSWER PERIOD

SUMMARY

By this notice, we require that answers to Continental's November 16, 1998 Motion and Request to Amend Startup Conditions be filed no later than November 20, 1998, and that replies to answers be filed no later than noon, November 24, 1998.

MOTION AND REQUEST

On November 16, 1998, Continental Airlines, Inc., filed a motion for leave to file an otherwise unauthorized document and requested the Department to amend any startup and dormancy conditions that would be imposed on awards in the above-captioned case. Specifically, Continental urges the Department to award the seven available frequencies to Continental and to grant Continental's application for Houston-Sao Paulo authority subject to an extended dormancy period of 18 months. In support of its request, Continental states that it has reviewed its plans for Brazil service and has concluded it cannot economically commence Houston-Sao Paulo service for 18 months and that because Brazil has experienced a severe economic downturn since the Department instituted the proceeding, new Brazil service cannot become economically viable within the required 90 days.

Continental served all parties to this proceeding with its motion/request on November 16, 1998. Under the Department's regulations (14 CFR 302.18), answers to this application would normally be due November 25, 1998. In view of the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday and our desire to proceed expeditiously with a decision in this case, we have decided to shorten the comment period for Continental's motion. We will require that answers be filed no later than November 20, 1998, and that replies to answers be filed no later than noon, November 24, 1998. We find that shortening the comment period is in the public interest and will not prejudice or compromise the ability of any interested party to respond to Continental's motion/request.

Based on the above, and acting under authority assigned in the Department's Regulations, 14 CFR 385.3, we shorten the comment period for filing answers to Continental Airlines, Inc.'s

November 16th motion and request in Docket OST-98-3863 to November 20, and replies to noon, November 24. We believe that the procedural schedule established here properly balances the needs of all interested parties, while still enabling the Department to act promptly on Continental's request. Given the accelerated procedural schedule, service of comments to other parties in response to this notice may be made by facsimile.

We will serve this notice by facsimile on all parties in Docket OST-98-3863.

By:

PAUL L. GRETCH
Director
Office of International Aviation

Dated: November 18, 1998

(SEAL)

*An electronic version of this notice is available on the World Wide Web at
<http://dms.dot.gov/general/orders/aviation.html>.*